

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/866,927
Examiner

Sang J. Hwang

Applicant(s)

YANASE ET AL
Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSE CUTTING ON THE COVER SHEET IS FOR CLAIMS CLAIMED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-892) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and 1.135.

1. This communication is responsive to Office Action.
 2. The claimed elements are 21 (PCT Rule 17(1)(a)) and/or 1 (PCT Rule 17(2)).
 3. The drawings filed on 5-18-98 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
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 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17(2)(b)).
 - * Certified copies not received .
 5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.78).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.78).
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**.
7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT¹ or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which goes reasonably far, if oath or declaration is deficient.
 8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS, as replacement sheets, must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-148) attached:
 1. hereto or 2. to Paper No. .
 2. including changes required by the proposed drafting correction form , which has been approved by the Examiner.
 3. including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

 9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTC-892). | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-148). | <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Summary (PTO-113), Paper No. <u> </u> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-S1410 or PTO-S1415);
Paper No. <u> </u> . | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
<u> </u> , Paper No. <u> </u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's response to amendment filed on 10/30/03, as to independent claims 21 and 32, the prior arts of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious method for inspecting a semiconductor wafer surface comprising all the specific elements with the specific combination including of at least one of said multiple light optics is a high-angle light optic having a detecting angle that is from 5 degrees to 20 degrees relative to said laser beam and at least another of said multiple light optics is a low-angle light optic having a detecting angle that is from 25 degrees to 75 degrees relative to said laser beam and determining a type and approximate shape of an occurrence associated with the semiconductor wafer based on a ratio of light intensities from the multiple light optics, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claims 21 and 32.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Sang Nguyen whose telephone number (703) 308-6426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Application/Control Number: 09/856,982
Art Unit: 2877

Page 3

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Frank Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722 or 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Nguyen/ sn *SN*

November 13, 2003



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
Technology Center 2800